

Why is EPA Collecting Additional Air Samples in Libby?

LIBBY #1

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD



The previous sampling (2000) for asbestos in indoor air, dust, and vermiculite insulation and in exterior soils was done as a first cut to determine if there were immediate health risks in homes that needed to be addressed with an Emergency Action. The sampling was successful in meeting that goal, and no such risks were found.

Additional air quality data now need to be collected to answer questions about the potential current and future risks to residents from asbestos in their homes as they go about specific tasks. Asbestos fibers may be distributed while working with attic insulation, vermiculite in gardens, road dust, or other sources.

To measure these exposures, EPA is asking residents whose homes were previously sampled to volunteer to participate in additional sampling. The homes were selected based on previous sample results and whether or not the home had vermiculite insulation. The homes are representative of a broad spectrum of situations in Libby, and being selected as potential candidates for the sampling DOES NOT mean that these homes present a particular health threat.

Over the next few months, volunteers will be asked to participate in one or more of four scenarios:

- Scenario 1 - Routine Daily Activities Sampling
- Scenario 2 - Active Cleaning Sampling
- Scenario 3 - Simulated Remodeling Sampling
- Scenario 4 - Garden Rototilling Sampling (Spring/Summer)

The first three of these scenarios is described in this information package. Participants in Scenario 2 and 3 will have to leave their homes for one or more days, depending upon the circumstances encountered in the sampling. During that time, EPA will pay for hotel, food, and other incidental expenses. The information you need to know is explained in this information package.

What's Involved in Scenario 1

Sampling?

LIBBY #1

Sampling Scenario 1 is designed to determine how much asbestos (if any) you may be exposed to in the air during your routine activities at home. During Scenario 1, you will wear a portable, battery-powered, air sampling pump as you go about your daily routine. The portable sampler must be worn for three 9-hour days. During that same time period, a stationary air sampling pump will be running in your home. Using two types of samplers allows us to compare the data and determine if routine household activities could increase your exposure to asbestos.

While you are wearing the monitor, you will be asked to go about your typical daily activities (watching TV, reading, cleaning, cooking, etc.). You will also be asked to keep a brief log that will allow us to determine how active you were during the sampling event. You will be asked to stay at home during the sampling.

Members of our sampling crew will set up the portable and stationary samplers in your home, and will return periodically throughout the sampling to ensure that everything is functioning properly and that you are not having any problems. The crew will be available by phone any time you need them. You will be provided with additional specific instructions at the time of sampling (such as who to call if the pump stops running), and we will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Neither you nor your pets will be required to leave your home as part of the Sample 1 Scenario. This sampling simply measures the amount of asbestos fibers (if any) present in your home during your normal routine, so there is no risk that the testing will increase your normal exposure. You are free to have company, if that is your normal routine.



REMEMBER: If you have any questions about the Phase 2 sampling, you can also call the EPA Information Center in Libby (293-6194).

What's Involved in Scenario 2 Sampling?

LIBBY #1

Sampling Scenario 2 is designed to determine how much asbestos (if any) you may be exposed to in the air during vigorous cleaning activities. These activities may include vacuuming carpets, rugs, curtains, and flooring in hard to reach places; dusting furniture and windowsills; and fluffing cushions of upholstered furniture.

Our sampling crew will perform the activities while you are away from home. Our sampling crew will wear the portable sampling pumps similar to those that are used for Scenario 1. A stationary air sampling pump will also be used during the sampling. The sampling will involve the collection of air samples prior to, during, and after the cleaning activities.

Because the cleaning activities are designed to stir up as much dust as possible, you will be asked to leave your home during the sampling. You will have several lodging choices available to you (see What Choices Do I Have For Temporary Relocation?). Additionally, because we do not want to expose you to any unnecessary risks, you will be asked to remain away from your home until the post-cleaning sample results indicate that conditions have returned to those found prior to the sampling. We anticipate that the sampling will occur on Day 1 and the confirmation results will be available on Day 2, displacing you from your home for only one night.

However, it is possible that the cleaning may stir up fibers that take longer than anticipated to leave the air space. If this happens, you will be asked to remain away from your home until the air returns to pre-cleaning conditions. This could potentially take another day or two. During that time, EPA will pay your hotel, food, and incidental expenses as described in this information packet.



At the time of sampling, you will be provided with additional specific instructions (such as who to call if you encounter any problems), and we will be happy to answer any questions you might have at that time. We will also have someone who will be able to retrieve a forgotten item (such as medicine) from your house for you during sampling.

REMEMBER: If you have any questions about the Phase 2 sampling, you can call the EPA Information Center in Libby (293-6194).

What Choices Do I Have For ^{LIBBY #1} Temporary Relocation?

As a participant in the Phase 2 sampling, you will be away from your home for at least one night and potentially as many as three nights. You have several options for temporary relocation during that time period. EPA will pay for whichever option is the easiest for you, following the guidelines outlined below.

Super 8 or Venture Inn Lodging

EPA has reserved a block of rooms at the Super 8 and Venture Inn in Libby. If you choose to stay at either motel, you will have no out of pocket lodging expenses. Other hotel costs (such as telephone calls, pay per view movies, room service, etc. are your responsibility and will NOT be paid by EPA.

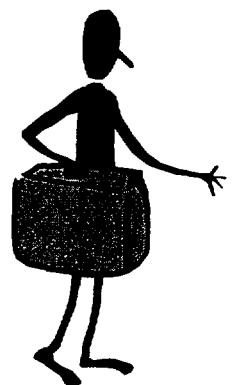
Lodging in a Hotel in Another City

If you want to stay in another city during the sampling, EPA will pay an amount equivalent to the government rate allowed for Libby (\$55 per night). If your chosen hotel is more expensive, you must pay the difference. Other hotel costs (such as telephone calls, pay per view movies, room service, etc. are your responsibility and will NOT be paid by EPA. You just need to submit your receipt to EPA (see the handout - How Do I Get Reimbursed) after your return.

Lodging With a Friend or Relative

If you desire, you may stay with a friend or relative, either in Libby or another city. However, government accounting rules do not allow you to receive payment for this option.

REMEMBER: It is very important to let us know which option you would like. Just call the EPA Information Center in Libby (293-6194) and tell us your preference, so we can make local arrangements.



What About Meals and Other Expenses?

LIBBY #1

As a participant in the Phase II sampling, you will be away from your home for at least one night. During that time, EPA will pay a daily food allotment that covers your meals for that period. EPA will also pay certain allowable expenses. After you return to your home, you will be reimbursed for these expenses following the instructions outlined in How Do I Get Reimbursed in this packet.

Daily Food Allotment

During your relocation, you will be paid a daily food allotment at a standard government rate to cover your meals. That rate is based on the location (Lincoln County) and the age of the person (adult or child). The rates are:

- \$30/day for head of household
- \$22.50/day for adults other than head of household
- \$15/day for children age 12 and under



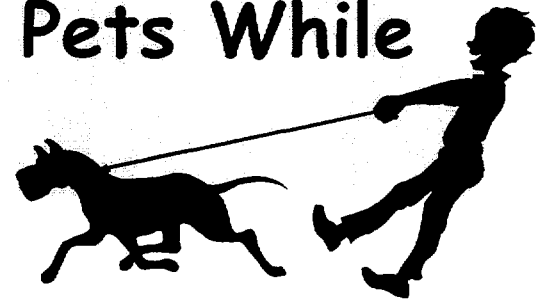
You do not have to provide receipts to show your actual expenses.

Other Incidental Expenses

In addition to charges for meals, EPA will also reimburse you for certain allowable expenses (such as laundry). You will need to submit receipts for these expenses.

REMEMBER: If you have any questions, just call the EPA Information Center in Libby (293-6194).

What Do I Do With My Pets While I Am Away?



If you are participating in the Scenario 1 - Routine Activities Sampling, your pets may stay with you in your home. However, if you are participating in Scenario 2 - Active Cleaning Sampling, you will be relocated and your dogs and cats should go with you. Smaller pets such as fish, birds, gerbils, or reptiles may be able to stay in the home. Just make sure you let us know where they are and what their needs are before you leave!

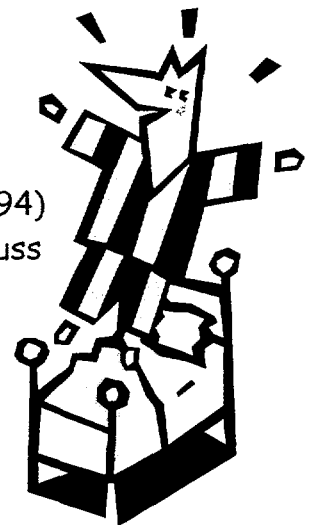


In these situations, EPA typically pays for cats and dogs to be kenneled while the owners are away from home. Unfortunately, there are no kennel services available in Libby, and the local veterinarians do not have kennel space.

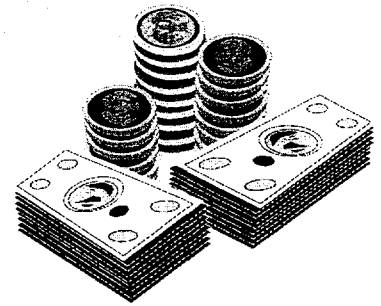
You have a few choices available to you:

- Your pets are welcome at either the Super 8 or Venture Inn in Libby and you may bring them to your room. EPA will pay the additional pet charge.
- If you choose to relocate to another city, in order to visit friends or relatives, and you would like to kennel your pets at that location, EPA will pay for the kennel charges.
- You may choose to have your pets stay with a friend or relative.

REMEMBER: It is very important to let us know what you will be doing with your pets. Just call the EPA Information Center in Libby (293-6194) and tell us your preference. If you have a special problem, we can discuss it. Also, let us know if we need to feed fish, birds, gerbils, etc. while you are out of the house!



How Do I Get Reimbursed for My Expenses?



As a participant in the Phase 2 sampling, you will be away from your home for at least one night and potentially as many as three nights. During that time, you will be eligible for reimbursement of lodging, kenneling, meal, and other incidental expenses. For more information on these expenses see (What Choices Do I Have For Temporary Relocation, What Do I Do With My Pets While I Am Away, and What About Meals and Other Expenses in this packet)

When you return to your home, EPA will work with you to complete the forms necessary for you to be reimbursed. The information we will need to record will be fairly simple and will include:

- The location where you stayed (local hotel, out of town hotel, or a friend or relative's house). A receipt is required for an out of town hotel.
- The number of people who were relocated (you, your spouse, and/or children).
- The dates you were required to be relocated because of the sampling.
- Any kenneling costs (receipts required)
- Any other incidental expenses (receipts required)

If you stay away from your home for an extended period of time (such as a vacation) and EPA is not able to be at your home when you return, you must come to the EPA Information Center (501 Mineral Ave) to provide the necessary information and sign the form. You will be reimbursed for the total amount of allowable expenses incurred by government check. The check will be issued to you within 7 to 10 days of submittal of your expenses to EPA.

REMEMBER: If you have any questions, just call the EPA Information Center in Libby (293-6194).